

GAMES FOR CHRISTMAS

They Will Add Interest to the Family Home-Coming Party.

By GLADYS BEATTIE CROZIER.



MAKING the Christmas home-coming party enjoyable to all members of the family, young and old, is always a problem. Grandmother is particularly anxious to please the little folks, and in doing so she will also please the older ones. But the children are best entertained when their pleasures are participated in by parents and aunts and uncles, and to accomplish the desired end nothing is more appropriate than games.

The ones described below are simple and easily arranged for in any home. There is an added interest in them when inexpensive prizes are awarded the winners, and these prizes will be especially attractive if they are made by grandmother's own hands.

A program of games may be outlined as follows:

- (1) Blind man's buff played with wooden spoons.
- (2) Blowing out the candle blindfold.
- (3) Throwing cards into a hat.
- (4) Pattern matching competition.
- (5) Silhouette cutting competition.

For blind man's buff with wooden spoons, a small chair, a cushion, a large handkerchief for blindfolding



Blind Man's Buff With Two Spoons.

purposes, and a couple of wooden spoons will be required.

To begin the game, a "blind man" is chosen to sit blindfolded on the chair, a wooden spoon in each hand.

The rest of the company are then marshaled up to kneel before him one by one, when the "blind man" endeavors to discover their identity by feeling them with the wooden spoons. The "blind man" is only allowed one guess, so that a good number of the company have, as a rule, to go through the ordeal before one of them is guessed right, and has to take the "blind man's" place, when the game goes on as before.

Blowing out the candle blindfold is a far more difficult feat than it would appear at first sight and the fruitless efforts of the players to perform this apparently simple task afford much merriment to the onlookers.

To begin the game, place a lighted candle on a small but steady table or pedestal at one end of the room, while the players stand at the other. To start the game, the competitors are blindfolded and turned round three



Blowing Out the Candle.

times before groping their way to the spot at which they imagine the candle to be situated, and endeavoring to puff it out.

Throwing cards into a hat makes a very amusing competition, in which much skill may be exhibited.

A top hat, a couple of packs of cards (with different backs) and a piece of white tape to mark out a barrier, form behind which the players must kneel to compete, are all the accessories required.

To begin the game, the two players throw in turns one card at a time, and whichever succeeds in getting the highest number of cards into the hat wins the game.

In a large party this would be played in a large hall or on the principle of a tournament, and to expedite matters several hats and packs of cards might be provided.

The pattern matching competition is most exciting, and is best played in a long hall or corridor, so that the competitors may have a long run "home."

A large number of pieces of stuff

CHILDHOOD'S HAPPY CHRISTMAS MORNING



from a rag-bag must be placed in several baskets, and from among the rags in each basket a small pattern must be taken and placed in an envelope.

To begin the game, the competitors are sorted into pairs, a man and a girl in each, the girls standing at one end of the corridor, each one with an envelope, and the men at the other, each one just behind the special basket in which his partner's pattern may be matched.

At a signal the men run down the corridor to the spot where the girls are standing, and each one receives the envelope held by his partner, opens it, takes out the pattern before dashing back to his basket to match



Throwing Cards Into a Hat.

It from the pile of cuttings from "fancy dress materials" within.

The competitor who first succeeds in matching his pattern wins the game, which, if more convenient, may be played in heats timed by stopwatch.

The silhouette cutting competition, as a rule, provokes the greatest merriment.

A sheet is hung up against a wall and drawn flat. The competitors are sorted into couples, and take their places beneath it seated on a row of chairs. Each player is next presented with a sheet of black-backed paper and a pair of scissors—no pencils are allowed—and thus armed must proceed to cut out the silhouette portrait of his or her next-door neighbor.

After a ten minutes' time-limit has



Pattern Matching Competition.

expired, the hostess must collect the silhouettes, and, turning them back side outwards, she pins them up on to the sheet.

Voting papers are next passed round to the entire company, and a first prize awarded for the makers of the best and worst portraits displayed.

THE PRINCE OF PEACE

By REV. C. E. JEFFERSON D.D.



and makes vivid the figure of one who says, "My peace I give unto you!" Many of us pray every day, "Thy kingdom come," and Christmas nudges us with the query, "What are you doing to bring it?"

Christmas comes, then, with a clear and penetrating message. It has an urgent word for all quarrelsome girls and fighting boys. It speaks admonishingly to husbands and wives who have allowed a quick temper to spoil the year, and who find themselves slowly drifting apart. It lays its hand on masters and servants, and endeavors to draw them closer together. It reminds employers and employees that they are not foes, but brethren. It chides labor and capital for fighting. It whispers a sweet remonstrance into the ears of all who carry in their hearts resentments and grudges. It reproves those who think disdainfully of fellow mortals who belong to another class or circle. It begs all who have become estranged to wipe out the old scores, to get rid of the old misunderstandings, to begin life over. It proclaims once more to all races and peoples that God has made of one blood all the nations of men.

Christmas comes with a personal message for rulers and statesmen, for diplomats and the makers of laws. It repeats to them the old message of God's love, and reminds them of a kingdom of whose increase there shall be no end. Christmas is a good time to think of international duties and responsibilities, and of what it is possible for America to do in creating a world-wide and enduring peace. Surely a Christian nation ought every year to take a new step along the road of conciliation.

A Merry Christmas! Thus we speak to one another every Christmas morning. The words have music in them only when they come from a heart touched by the spirit of brotherliness and good-will. This spirit was incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth, and it is through him that God makes peace. Each succeeding celebration of the anniversary of his birth ought to spread his gentle and gracious sovereignty over wider areas of life, until the whole round earth shall sing at last the song of the angelic host—YOUTH'S COMPANION.

Ribbon Bags for Christmas



Opera bags, handsome work bags and small ribbon bags that are so welcome with each returning Christmas are more beautiful than ever this year. For the art of weaving ribbons, which amounts to as much as painting when it comes to picturing flowers, seems to have reached perfection. Woven and printed Dresden ribbons and the richest brocades are used for the various kinds of bags. The heavy brocades are used for bags to be carried on the street, the flowered and gayly striped printed ribbons are chosen for work bags and the small toilet or vanity bags for carrying powder and powder puff, a small hand mirror, a little square of cambric and all the other little requirements which women find it necessary to have within easy reach all the time.

The colors chosen for hand bags are soft and rich and the flowers shown in raised velvet against a satin background. Eggplant and deep royal purple shading into black in the background, blossom into rich American Beauty roses in their natural colorings with dark green shadowy foliage melting into the ground. Little rosettes finished with pendant ribbon flowers or little bows are used as a finish. Such a bag is shown in Figs. 1 and 2.

For Fig. 2 a lighter brocade is used, with woven-in instead of raised flowers. But the design is gorgeous with gold thread woven into the design. The bag is a trifle smaller and the corners of it are rounded. Narrow satin ribbon in the prevailing color of the bag finishes the sides with loops and furnishes the means of carrying the bag.

Fig. 3 is a work bag made of gray Dresden ribbon with dark stripes sewed to plain satin ribbon in the same color as the background of the Dresden. This bag is provided with a cardboard bottom covered with the ribbon and finished with hangers of narrow satin ribbon and two rosettes of it. These Dresden and plain satin ribbons are inexpensive but beautiful.

Fig. 4 is a very handsome bag in flowered ribbon in which black and gold are the predominant colors with touches of scarlet. It is made on a circular bottom like Fig. 3, but the lengthwise of the ribbon run around the bag. It is hemmed at the top without a standing ruffle and rosettes of narrow black satin ribbon are set about it, four of them altogether. At the sides flower pendants made of the narrow ribbon hang from full rosettes.

JULIA BOTTOMLEY.

Little Novelties for Christmas



Flat rosettes and velvet roses, and life-like roses of ribbon, more wonderfully well made than ever, are the fad of the hour. With small, compact nosegays made of ribbon or millinery flowers, they divide honors in millinery favor. For furnishing separate girdles flat ribbon rosettes are used. The corage rose is fastened just above the waist line and it is a superb touch to the dinner or evening toilet. The exquisite little nosegays bloom on all sorts of dress and are liked by the tailor-made coat with its dainty finish of white plaitings at the collar and sleeves. Two American Beauty roses are shown here made of satin ribbon.

Each petal is carefully curled and tucked at the edges to look like a gleaming natural rose. The ribbon is in two and sometimes three shades and millinery foliage of the most natural-looking variety is used with the roses. Finally, not to disappoint any one, the flowers are scented with attar of roses.

There is nothing that could be better for a Christmas gift than the corage rose or the little nosegay. In the latter the stems are wound with tinfoil matching the flowers in color and tied with a bow of baby velvet ribbon of the same color.

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Think of Xmas

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A Gentle Hint.

"Er—er—some of the facetious gentlemen in the congregation," says the minister, as the deacons prepare to take up the collection, "have been in the habit of dropping buttons into the plate. Might I suggest that, in view of a recent arrival at the parsonage, they substitute safety pins for the time being?"—Judge.

The Eternal Impulse.

Fair Suffragette—And now, if any one who has heard my speech wishes to ask a question, I shall be happy to answer.

Masculine voice (from the rear of the hall)—If you haven't an other company, may I see you home this evening?

Sword Swallowers.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt was dining at one of those New York hotels where everything is garishly sumptuous, new and vulgar—one of those overglazed, overcarved, overmarbled hotels where, instead of the ripple of laughter, the gurgle of soup eating alone is to be heard.

Mr. Vanderbilt, looking about him at the solemn, fat, bediamonded diners on every side, said with a smile: "It is evident that a great many of these persons were born with silver knives in their mouths."